



JAMES A. NOYES, Director

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

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August 28, 2003

IN REPLY PLEASE

REFER TO FILE

PD-1

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**2004-05 AND 2005-06 GRADE SEPARATION PRIORITY LIST
SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS 1, 2, 4, AND 5
3 VOTES**

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD:

Approve the following list of seven proposed grade separation projects, and authorize the Director of Public Works to submit them to the California Public Utilities Commission for their consideration in establishing the 2004-05 and 2005-06 Grade Separation Priority List.

<u>Project</u>	<u>Jurisdiction</u>	<u>Supervisory Districts</u>
El Segundo Boulevard over Union Pacific Railroad and Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (at Willowbrook Avenue)	Los Angeles County	2
Fairway Drive under Union Pacific Railroad (north of Walnut Drive)	City of Industry and Los Angeles County	1 and 4
Flores Street under Union Pacific Railroad (east of Garfield Avenue)	City of Downey and City of South Gate	1 and 4

<u>Project</u>	<u>Jurisdiction</u>	<u>Districts</u>
Nogales Street under Union Pacific Railroad (at Railroad Street)	City of Industry and Los Angeles County	1 and 4
Sierra Highway/Barrel Springs Road under Southern California Regional Rail Authority	Los Angeles County	5
Slauson Avenue under Union Pacific Railroad (at Long Beach Avenue)	City of Los Angeles and Los Angeles County	1 and 2
Turnbull Canyon Road under Union Pacific Railroad (at Salt Lake Avenue)	City of Industry and Los Angeles County	1 and 4

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Each year, the State highway budget includes funds to aid in financing the cost of constructing or altering highway-railroad grade separations. To determine projects worthy of receiving an allocation, the California Public Utilities Commission (PUC) biennially prepares a priority list of the most urgently needed highway-railroad grade separation improvements. If more projects qualify than can be financed from available funds, allocations are limited to those ranking highest on the priority list. The seven projects we are submitting appear to be the most eligible crossings for priority ranking and possible funding consideration as grade separations.

The PUC has requested that local agencies submit project applications by October 17, 2003, for inclusion on the 2004-05 and 2005-06 Priority List. The Commission is responsible for establishing criteria to be used in determining the priority of the projects nominated for separation or alteration. The recommended action will authorize the Director of Public Works to submit the projects to the PUC for consideration. Six of the seven subject projects were submitted to the PUC in 1999 and are included on the current priority list. However, to be included for Fiscal Years 2004-05 and 2005-06, these projects must be resubmitted to obtain a priority ranking. The newest proposed project is Sierra Highway/Barrel Springs Road under Southern California Regional Rail Authority.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

This action meets the County's Strategic Plan Goal of Service Excellence as it provides services to the public in a more responsive manner. Construction of these highway/railroad grade separations will allow residents to utilize travel routes that are less congested with no travel delays due to train blockage.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

By submitting our proposed grade separation projects to the PUC for their consideration, we are not making a commitment to proceed with each project. Consequently, there is no fiscal impact associated with this action. However, if any of our projects receive a high ranking against the other projects submitted Statewide, we would be eligible to receive up to \$5 million in State funds toward the design and construction of the project.

After the PUC establishes the priority list, and if one or more of the County's projects rank high enough to receive an allocation of State funds, I will subsequently recommend to your Board a financing plan to fully fund the project(s).

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

Section 2450 of the California Streets and Highways Code establishes the Grade Separation Program to fund projects throughout the State that will eliminate grade crossings. Each year, the California Transportation Commission distributes a total of \$15 million to eligible projects. Prior to July 1 of each year, the PUC establishes a priority list of eligible separation projects throughout the State most urgently in need of construction or reconstruction.

ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION

Pursuant to Section 21080.13 of the Public Resources Code of the State of California, grade separation projects are exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

Each of the projects, which are on the County Highway Plan, will enhance safety and traffic movements by eliminating at-grade highway-railroad crossings.

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
August 28, 2003
Page 4

CONCLUSION

Upon approval, please return two approved copies of this letter to Public Works.

Respectfully submitted,

JAMES A. NOYES
Director of Public Works

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cc: Chief Administrative Office
County Counsel